



# Meeting Highlights

## February 20, 2024

The mandate of the CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Action Committee is to collaboratively identify effective education practices for school authorities through engaging with representatives of First Nations, Métis, Public, Separate, Francophone, Charter, Independent authorities, and associations.

### Committee Membership for 2023-2024

#### CASS Representatives:

**David Keohane** – CASS CEO

**Dr. Daphne Mai'Stoina** – Board Representative

**Dianne Roulson** - CASS Leadership Consultant (related to the annual Indigenous Education Gathering)

#### Zone Representatives:

**Betty Turpin** – Superintendent, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (Zone 1)

**Peter Barron** – Superintendent, St. Paul Education Regional Division, (Zone 2/3)

**Tim De Ruyck (Committee Chair)** – Superintendent, Wolf Creek Public Schools (Zone 4)

**Cindy Stefanato** – Director of Indigenous Learning, Rocky View Schools (Zone 5)

**Robbie Charlebois** – Associate Superintendent of Human Services, Lethbridge School Division (Zone 6)

#### Treaty Representatives:

**Tracy Swampy-Sylvester** – Superintendent, Maskwacis Education Schools Commission (Treaty 6)

**Staahtsistayaaki - Genevieve Fox** – Director of Education, Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council (Treaty 7)

**Chester Auger** – Director of Education, Bigstone Cree Nation Education (Treaty 8)

#### Métis Representatives:

**Dianne Desjarlais** – Director, Alberta Métis Settlements General Council

**Lisa Cruickshank** – Director, Métis Education and Lifelong Learning, Rupertsland Institute

#### Charter:

**Mavis Averill** – Superintendent, Boyle Street Education Centre

#### Francophone:

**Dolorèse Nolette** – Directrice Générale/Superintendent of Schools, Conseil scolaire Centre-Est

#### AISCA:

**Erin Murphy** – Senior ECS Manager

#### Alberta Education:

**Rod Armstrong** – Acting ADM, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Division

**Sarah Pearce** – Acting Executive Director, Indigenous and North Services Branch Field Services

**For more information, please contact:**  
Your representative and/or David Keohane  
[david.keohane@cass.ab.ca](mailto:david.keohane@cass.ab.ca)

### Welcome and Acknowledgement of Land

Tim De Ruyck shared a [video land acknowledgement](#) that Wolf Creek Public Schools has started using. The group appreciated this and applauded Tim for this initiative.

### Introductions

Committee members were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

### Update on the Indigenous Education Gathering

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson and ARPDC Knowledge Keeper Jason Bigcharles shared updates to the Gathering program.

- Due to logistical challenges, the Minister's Youth Council will not be able to participate for the whole duration of the Gathering but will participate in a breakout session.
- 4 representatives from ATEP will attend and serve as Elder helpers and provide youth representation. They are also involved in 1 breakout sessions.
- Local youth will be invited to participate as Elder Helpers and to highlight kinship between youth and Elders.
- The Round Dance pre-conference at the Gathering venue is a wonderful start to the Gathering to embody kinship. Sponsors will be sought to provide giveaway items for Round Dance participants.
- CASS will continue with its past practice of sponsoring Elders to attend the Gathering. This includes accommodation for two nights and registration. For 2024, 10 Elders will be sponsored.

### Seeking Advice on CASS Conditional Grant: Deliverable 3

CASS Leadership Consultant Dr. Dianne Roulson shared updates about steps she has taken regarding the projects assigned to her through the CASS Conditional Grant. She asked for guidance and advice from action committee members.

### CEP Course - Indigenous Education Data Analysis/Accountability/Planning

- The CASS Continuing Education Program scheduled for full implementation September 2024 will include 12 courses, with 2 courses focusing on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education.
- One course, *Sharing Stone Keeper's Wisdom*, was developed last year as a land-based session with an advisory team, the majority of whom were Indigenous senior leaders. The second course to be developed this year will focus on Indigenous student data and success.

Guidance and suggestions offered from action committee members:

- Consider incorporating data on Indigenous employment with strategies/action plan on how this can be strengthened district-wide and then province-wide.
- Consider careful framing around when we look at data and what data will we look at.
- Data about exclusionary disciplinary practices and attendance should be carefully reviewed.
- We should be looking at where Indigenous students are at and are they equally represented in all the streams, especially in high schools.
- Present data through case studies or analysis to unearth things that people are unaware of.
- Work toward having an alignment of what we profess we want to do and policies and practices that sustain that.
- Address that different divisions have different funding models.
- Look through the lenses of barrier removal - how can we remove barriers to student success.

### Cultural Protocol Research

The action committee highlighted the need for conversation and guidelines about Cultural and Ceremonial Protocol beginning in the spring of 2022. This is also one of the projects assigned to this year's CASS Conditional Grant.

**Next Meeting:** April 11, 2024, 1-3 p.m.